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[image]

"What do you have to say for yourself?" the leader, Bluestar, said from the high rock.

"I-I swear! I didn't kill him!" Firepaw meowed.

"Liar!" Graypaw hissed. "You killed Ravenpaw when we were going to Shadow Clan, it wasn't a patrol!" he said as cats gasped.

Firepaw looked to the cats he once looked up to. Whitestorm had an ashamed face on. Bluestar was snarling at him. Tigerclaw was lashing his tail, seeming ready to attack. Yellowfang had an unreadable expression, but Firepaw knew she was in shock. Sandpaw and Dustpaw looked about ready to kill him!

"Is this true?" Bluestar turned to Firepaw.

"No! I would never kill him!" Firepaw hissed.

Yowls of protest rose though the clan. Firepaw didn't know why Graypaw would say that, they weren't friends, but this could kill him.

"Leave Thunder Clan, Firepaw." Bluestar growled.

"But where will I go!" Firepaw said in worry.

"Back to two-leg place, and never return!" Bluestar hissed, waiting a few long seconds. "Sandpaw, Dustpaw, drive this *kitty-pet* out!"

"Gladly." Dustpaw smirked as Sandpaw took a step forward.

Firepaw watched in horror as the two older apprentice raced after him. He quickly dodged Sandpaw's attack as she leapt as him. Dustpaw skidded and chased after him. The three apprentices dashed out of camp, leaving their clan and running though the forest. They occasionally leapt at Firepaw, in attempt to pin him.

Soon enough, the cats were met with Sunning Rocks. Firepaw skidded to a halt as he met the river, the two apprentices didn't stop. Dustpaw jumped at Firepaw's tail, yanking it and flinging the ginger tom into the flowing river. Clouds started to cover the sky as rain fell.

Rain hit the river as Firepaw's fur soaked into the water. He didn't choose to fight the cold river, but instead accepted his fate.

His body fell limp as his eyes started to close. As he laid still, he saw a splash, then a silver body coming after him head on. His eyes fully closed, falling numb as coldness overwhelmed him.

|| Chapter 1 ||

[image]

Firepaw opened his green eyes, a shiver running down his spine as cold water rushed over him. He must've still been wet, but he was somewhere different. He was in a moss nest, and the scent of herbs were all over the den. He looked down to see some blue berries. He ate them weakly, keeping alert for any enemy cats.

"Your awake I see." a voice called out.

"Who's there!" Firepaw looked up, facing a tall, long-furred tom with brown fur.

"I'm Mudfur, River Clan's medicine cat." the brown tom meowed.

"River Clan? But I'm Thunder Clan! Or, I *was*.." Firepaw said sadly.

"Thunder Clan you say?" Mudfur rose a brow. "Why would they exile one of their warriors?"

"I was an apprentice, but I was framed for another's murder a moment before I was being made an warrior." Firepaw whined.

"I see, I'll be back." the medicine cat left the den.

Firepaw sat quietly for a few moments, looking about. He watched Mudfur walk into the den once more, followed by a brown tabby. Firepaw recognized the tom as Crookedstar, River Clan's leader. The tom looked down on the apprentice, his green eyes pierced through Firepaw.

"A Thunder Clan apprentice? What is your name?" Crookedstar meowed.

"Firepaw.." the ginger tom meowed.

"Would you like to join River Clan? You seem like a strong warrior, Thunder Clan made a mistake exiling you." Crookedstar purred.

"Really?" Firepaw's eyes glowed. "I would love to!"

"Come with me, Firepaw." the leader walked out the den.

Firepaw was amazed by the sleek warriors. Their camp was also big, and their fresh-kill-pile was filled with fish and rabbits. As he zoned off, Crookedstar had called a meeting. Firepaw quickly joined the cats, who gave him weird stares.

"Cats of River Clan, gather under the Wet-Rock to hear my words!" Crookedstar yowled from the top of the rock.

Cats quickly gathered, more attention drawing to the bright orange tom.

"An apprentice, Firepaw from Thunder Clan, was exiled after being wrongly accused. We had brought him to River Clan, and he agreed to join us." Crookedstar stared, getting a few confused meows. "He will get his warrior name, but train as an apprentice to learn to hunt fish. His name will be Firerain, in honor of his long ginger fur."

Cats cheered the name "Firerain" and Firepaw— Firerain, couldn't help but feel a burst of joy. He was quickly being accepted into the clan, without one protest!